

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

RIKI FUJITANI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



STATE OF HAWAII
SCHOOL FACILITIES AUTHORITY
2759 S. KING STREET, ROOM H201
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

**Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senate Committee on Judiciary**

Tuesday, April 1, 2025
10:00 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 221

**House Bill 329, House Draft 2, Senate Draft 1, Relating to the School Facilities
Authority**

Dear Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Moriwaki and Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

The School Facilities Authority (SFA) **supports the intent** of House Bill 329, House Draft 2, Senate Draft 1, which would clarify that the SFA is responsible for projects for facilities for prekindergarten, preschool, child care, and early learning programs; workforce housing; and any public school development, planning, and construction assigned by the Legislature, Governor, or Board of Education.

Clarifying SFA's roles and responsibilities in statute would benefit policymakers, DOE, SFA, and the public.

To ensure SFA is able to continue to flexibly pursue prekindergarten, preschool, child care, and early learning projects in the pipeline, we recommend the following amendments:

- Add the following underlined language at the end of the provision on Page 2, Lines 11-12: “New or renovated facilities for prekindergarten, preschool, child care, or early learning programs; provided that facilities for prekindergarten, preschool, child care, or early learning programs may be constructed on school property or other state or county property;” and
- Amend HRS section 302A-1703, subsection (c), paragraph (15) (Page 7, Lines 4-8) as follows:

(15) Partner with public and private development agencies to develop:

- (A) Housing on or off campus; [~~and~~]
- (B) Classrooms; and
- (C) Prekindergarten, preschool, child care, and early learning program facilities;

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Riki Fujitani
Executive Director



**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2025**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 329, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, RELATING TO THE SCHOOL FACILITIES AUTHORITY.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEES ON WAYS AND MEANS AND ON JUDICIARY

DATE: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 **TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 211 & Videoconference

TESTIFIER(S): **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY.**
(For more information, contact Anne T. Horiuchi,
Deputy Attorney General, at (808) 586-1255)

Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads and Members of the Committees:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) provides the following comments.

The bill: (1) clarifies that the School Facilities Authority (SFA) is responsible for projects for (a) facilities for prekindergarten, preschool, child care, and early learning programs; (b) workforce housing; and (c) any public school development, planning, and construction assigned by the Legislature, Governor, or Board of Education, under certain conditions; (2) authorizes the SFA to partner with public and private development agencies to develop prekindergarten facilities; and (3) appropriates funds to SFA for the planning and construction of a new middle school in central Maui, a new elementary school in Lahaina, and a teacher housing project in Mililani.

Prekindergarten, Preschool, Child Care, or Early Learning Facilities

The bill revises section 302A-1703(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to provide that the SFA "shall be responsible for all **public school . . . projects** related to . . .

(1) [n]ew or renovated facilities for prekindergarten, preschool, child care, or early learning programs[.]" Page 2, lines 7-12 (emphasis added). "Child care" and "early learning programs" are not on public school campuses, and the Department of Education (DOE) has no jurisdiction or administrative authority over such programs. To

avoid confusion, section 302A-1703(a)(1), HRS, at page 2, lines 11-12, should be revised as follows:

- (1) New or renovated facilities for **public** prekindergarten[,], **or public** preschool[, ~~child care, or early learning~~] programs;

(Suggested changes Ramseyered against the existing text of the bill and in bold.)

In the alternative, if the Legislature intends to give the SFA the additional responsibility for projects related to "[n]ew or renovated facilities for . . . child care, or early learning programs[.]" which are NOT on public school campuses, then the Department suggests adding a new paragraph to section 302A-1703(c), HRS, the subsection that lists additional powers of the SFA, (page 3, line 5, through page 7, line 16), to read as follows: "Work on projects related to new or renovated facilities for child care or early learning programs;".

Workforce Housing

The bill revises section 302A-1703(a), HRS, to provide that the SFA "shall be responsible for all **public school . . . projects** related to: . . . "(2) [w]orkforce housing for educators and other education workers in schools serving prekindergarten, elementary, and secondary grades; provided that workforce housing may be constructed on school property or other property[.]" Page 2, lines 7-17 (emphasis added). The bill is unclear whether the workforce housing is limited to educators and education workers in **public** schools (i.e., inclusive of DOE schools and public charter schools). This should be clarified to avoid confusion by revising section 302A-1703(a)(2), at page 2, lines 13-17, as follows:

- (2) Workforce housing for educators and other education workers in **public** schools serving prekindergarten, **preschool**, elementary, and secondary grades; provided that **the** workforce housing may be constructed on **public** school property or other property; and . . .

(Suggested changes Ramseyered against the existing text of the bill and in bold.)

For consistency, the phrase "teacher housing project" in section 5 of the bill at page 8, line 13, should be replaced with "workforce housing project."

Repair or Maintenance

The bill provides that the SFA "shall not be responsible for the repair or maintenance of any department of education facilities." Page 3, lines 1-3. Because public prekindergarten classrooms may also be located at public charter schools, if the intent of the bill is to clarify that SFA does not have any repair or maintenance responsibilities, then page 3, lines 1-3, of the bill should be revised to read as follows: "provided that the authority shall not be responsible for the repair or maintenance of any department of education **or charter school** facilities." (Suggested changes Ramseyered against the existing text of the bill and in bold.)

Authority to Partner with Public and Private Development Agencies

The bill amends section 302A-1703(c)(15), HRS, to provide that SFA may partner with public and private development agencies to develop "[p]rekindergarten facilities[.]" Page 7, lines 4-8. To be consistent with the amendment to new section 302A-1703(a)(1), new section 302A-1703(c)(15)(C) on page 7, line 8, should be revised to read as follows: "**[Prekindergarten] Public prekindergarten and public preschool** facilities;" (Suggested changes Ramseyered against the existing text of the bill and in bold.)

Additionally, to be consistent with the text of new section 302A-1703(a)(2), section 302A-1703(c)(15)(A) on page 7, line 6, should be revised to read as follows: "**[Housing] Workforce housing** on or off **[campus] public school property**; ~~and~~" (Suggested changes Ramseyered against the existing text of the bill and in bold.)

We are available to assist the Committees with revising the bill. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 04/01/2025

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: CR 211 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Ways and Means
Senate Judiciary

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Bill Title: HB 0329, HD2, SD1 RELATING TO THE SCHOOL FACILITIES AUTHORITY.

Purpose of Bill: Clarifies that the School Facilities Authority is responsible for projects for facilities for prekindergarten, preschool, child care, and early learning programs; workforce housing; and any public school development, planning, and construction assigned by the Legislature, Governor, or Board of Education, under certain conditions. Authorizes the School Facilities Authority to partner with public and private development agencies to develop prekindergarten facilities. Appropriates funds. Takes effect 7/1/3000. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii Department of Education (Department) appreciates the opportunity to offer comments to HB 329, HD 2, SD 1.

The Department remains concerned about the language in this bill that would provide the Hawaii School Facilities Authority (SFA) with the responsibility of developing, planning, and constructing all new or renovated prekindergarten, preschool, child care, and early learning programs; workforce housing; and any public school development. The Department still has tremendous responsibility over special education and Title I preschools and is unsure as to the impact the language in this bill would have on its authority and ability to deliver critical educational services.

Based on the above, the Department recommends amending the following language in the bill as follows:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the school facilities authority is entrusted with responsibilities relating to the development, planning, and construction of public school projects. The legislature further finds that the school facilities authority could carry out these responsibilities with greater

efficiency if certain changes were made to statutes governing the authority.

Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

(1) Clarify that the school facilities authority is responsible for projects related to:

(A) Certain facilities for prekindergarten, preschool, child care, and early learning programs; and

(B) Workforce housing, under certain conditions; ~~and~~

~~(C) Any public school development, planning, and construction~~ assigned by the ~~legislature, governor,~~
~~or~~ board of education; and

(2) Authorize the school facilities authority to partner with public and private development agencies to develop prekindergarten facilities.

SECTION 2. Section 302A-1703, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended as follows:

1. By amending subsection (a) to read:

"(a) Except as otherwise limited by this chapter, the authority shall be responsible for all public school ~~[development, planning, and construction]~~ projects related to ~~[capital improvement projects]~~:

(1) New ~~or renovated~~ facilities for prekindergarten, preschool, child care, or early learning programs;
and

(2) Workforce housing for educators and other education workers in schools serving prekindergarten, elementary, and secondary grades.; ~~and~~

~~(3) Any public school development, planning, and construction~~ assigned by the ~~legislature, governor,~~
~~or~~ board of education."

Thank you for this opportunity to offer comments to HB 329, HD 2, SD 1.

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA LAWELAWE KAIĀULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



ANTON C. KRUCKY
DIRECTOR
PO'O
AEDWARD LOS BANOS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O

March 31, 2025

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
And Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol, Conference Room 211
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
And Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol, Conference Room 211
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Chair Rhoads
And Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
And Members on the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

SUBJECT: Measure H.B. No. 329, H.D. 2 S.D. 1– Relating to the
School Facilities Authority

The City and County of Honolulu (City) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. No. 329, H.D. 2 S.D. 1.

The City is grateful for the meaningful collaboration we have established with the State through the School Facilities Authority (SFA) to meet the shared City-State goal of expanding access to affordable child care for our local families. In working with the SFA, we are strategically leveraging their powers and funding to realize new facilities on City-owned property in an expedient manner. In working the City, the SFA is able to increase the inventory in areas of great need.

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
And Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
And Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
March 31, 2025
Page 2

We appreciate the concerns expressed by the Department of Education (HIDOE) and the SFA, and defer to them regarding implementation. The City respectfully offers an amendment—which we believe is in general alignment with the SFA and HIDOE testimony while also addresses their concerns—to section 2, subsection C, subsection 15 (page 7, lines 1-5) as follows:

"Partner with public and private development agencies to develop:

- (A) Housing on or off campus;
- (B) Classrooms; ~~and~~
- (C) Prekindergarten facilities; and
- (D) Child care facilities..."

We believe this amendment would more clearly affirm the SFA's authority to support the development of child care facilities on public properties outside of public school lands, including City property. There are already a number of DOE schools sited on City-owned properties and this makes for a logical extension. Beyond being a strategic partnership, this is a mutual partnership that will benefit local families and Hawai'i's future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and for your dedication to expanding early learning opportunities for Hawai'i's children and families.

Sincerely,

Anton C. Krucky
Director

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Chevelle Davis, MPH - Director of Early Childhood & Health Policy
Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!

Subject: Measure H.B. No. 329, H.D. 2, S.D. 1 – Relating to the School Facilities Authority

Hearing: Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 10:00 AM, Conference Room 211

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha e Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Moriwaki and Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT of H.B. No. 329 H.D. 2, S.D. 1**, which clarifies the School Facilities Authority's (SFA) responsibility for developing prekindergarten, preschool, child care, and early learning facilities, workforce housing, and other projects assigned by the Legislature, Governor, or Board of Education. The bill also allows the SFA to collaborate with public and private development agencies and utilize the Department of Education (DOE) for certain recruitment and hiring purposes.

Clear statutory language will help ensure the effective implementation of these critical projects. Additionally, we support SFA's suggested amendments to ensure they can continue to pursue prekindergarten, preschool, child care, and early learning projects flexibly.

We urge the Legislature to adopt these clarifications to ensure SFA can effectively deliver much-needed early learning and workforce housing projects.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this critical measure.

HB-329-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 8:14:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB329. Please pass this bill.

TESTIMONY OF
LARRY S VERAY

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

MOST STRONGLY SUPPORT HB329 HD2 SD1

RELATED TO TRANSPORTATION

March 29, 2025

Aloha, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and committee members. I am Larry Veray, Chairman for the Pearl City Neighborhood Board No. 21; however, I am submitting this testimony as an individual. ***Our School Facilities Authority requires funding to support a partnership between public and private development agencies to develop prekindergarten facilities.***
I most STRONGLY SUPPORT HB329 HD2 SD1.

We know that our School Facilities Authority has great responsibility managing and maintaining the following programs and facilities:

- Prekindergarten
- Preschool
- Child Care
- Early Learning Programs
- Workforce Housing
- Public School Development, Planning and Construction

We should not leave any prekindergarten students behind as we have experienced over the past years. **Please approve funding for HB329 HD2 SD1.** Mahalo!

Larry S. Veray

HB-329-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2025 8:48:56 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica McCullum	Testifying for Autism Moms of Kona	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 329, with a suggested amendment. Amend HRS section 302A-1703, subsection (a), paragraph (2) (Page 2, Lines 14-15) as follows: "Workforce housing for educators and other education workers in schools **at both the school level and district level** serving prekindergarten, elementary, and secondary grades;"

District personnel in our complex area (and I'm sure others) have been negatively impacted by the pay differential that was only applied to educators at the school level and not the district level, leaving our district personnel with a reduction in staffing and our district systems and processes vulnerable.

All in all, I support this measure. There is an increase in demand for public school facilities use, a few notably that I have been directly involved with are increase in preschool waitlists and increase in services for Special Education and an IEP for eligibility categories of Developmental Delay and Autism. A shared goal amongst a lot of schools is also parent engagement, and this would nurture that intent.

This would also improve DOE retention of quality professionals with the workforce housing intention. I know a number of teachers, principals, and district personnel that commute to my children's school - Kahakai Elementary in Kona - all the way from Hilo, Honoka'a or Miloli'i and Ocean View. They deserve the support and the peace of mind by having this as an incentive and also a foundation for their mental health well-being.

Daniel C. Smith
1961 Aamaka Pl.
Pearl City, HI 96782
dancsmith@rocketmail.com 808-462-8346

March 30, 2025

The Senate
Committee on Ways Means
Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii

Re: Hearing on HB329 SD1, April 1, 2025, at 10:00 am

Aloha Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Committee Members:

I support HB329 SD1. In particular, workforce housing on and around school campuses makes good sense. Similarly, adding pre-K and childcare facilities to the responsibilities of the School Facilities Authority will improve projects.

The administrative and fiscal parts of the bill will make the school facilities authority more effective and efficient. Please pass the bill.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel C. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daniel C. Smith
Pearl City